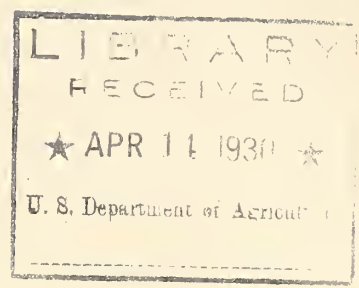


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SUMMARY OF MARCH WEATHER

A radio talk by Mr. J. B. Kincer, Weather Bureau, delivered through Station WRC and 34 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, April 2, 1930.

How-do-you do, folks! One month ago our weather story related to February, and to-day we are to talk a few minutes about the weather for the first spring month, March. Normally, there is very little difference between the temperature of January and February, but in March there is usually a general and decided warming up, especially in the northern portions of the country. In the South, the normal temperature for March is only 6° or 8° higher, but in the more northern States, such as the Dakotas and Minnesota, the temperature averages, in the long run, from 13 degrees to 15 degrees higher than for February.

Normal temperatures, however, represent averages for a long period of years, and the weather for any particular year, like some folks you possibly may know, seems to have a rather persistent habit of refusing to behave, as all good weather should, in a perfectly normal fashion. This year, February was abnormally warm, and March, as a whole, was moderately cool in the southern half of the country, and somewhat warmer than normal in much of the North. The first half of the month continued warm, but the latter part, beginning about the 18th, was decidedly cold. Thus, instead of March being much warmer than February, it actually was colder over many southern and interior sections of the country. Precipitation was very heavy in parts of the Southeast and was somewhat above normal in much of the west Gulf area, the Northeast, and parts of the Northwest and Southwest. It was decidedly scanty in the interior valleys and southern Great Plains, as well as the extreme northern Plains area, where some sections had less than one-fourth the normal amount for the month.

March, as a whole, was fairly favorable for outside operations in central and Southern States, and farm work is well abreast of the season rather generally, though the last ten days were mostly unfavorable, because of cold weather, heavy snows in the Lake region and northern Ohio Valley, and frozen soil in North-Central States. The plantings of spring crops this year began in favored localities northward about normally, with some corn put in as far north as Kansas and North Carolina, and some cotton planted to central Georgia and northeastern Texas at about the average date. However, very little additional planting has been accomplished for a week, or more, because of cool weather, while germination and growth have been slow. In Texas, where the bulk of cotton seeding so far has been done, progress of the crop is poor, with some frost damage, and much seed will be lost in the central and northern parts of the eastern half of the State, because of the recent unfavorable germinating weather.

The low temperatures the latter part of March were wide-spread and marked, especially in the central valleys and the South, with frost extending well into the Northern Gulf area; considerable harm resulted to tender vegetation, and some additional damage to early fruit bloom as far north as parts of the Ohio Valley. In general, however, aside from the winterkilling of peach buds in much of the interior, there has been no wide-spread damage so far to the fruit crop, but trees are well advanced for the season, and there is still danger of damaging frost in many sections. Killing frost occurs, on the average, as often as one year in ten as far south as the Ohio River and extreme southern Missouri, as late as May 1, and in an average year it occurs as late as this as far south as eastern Pennsylvania, central Ohio, northern Illinois, and central Iowa.

Pastures and meadows are doing well in the more eastern States, but in the middle West and Northwest recent cold weather has been unfavorable, and drought persists in parts of the Southwest. While there has been some local shrinkage in livestock in western mountain sections, conditions during March were rather generally favorable for lambing. In the South, the growth of truck crops recently has been slow, because of low temperatures, while excessive rain during the past week in Florida caused much injury to beans, peppers, and potatoes, and the necessary suspension of potato digging may result in some rotting.

As regards winter wheat, a rather critical moisture condition has developed in much of the Southwest where precipitation has been deficient throughout the winter and early spring. From Kansas southwestward the amounts for the three winter months were mostly only 25 to 50 per cent of normal, and over much of this area, March also had very little rainfall. This dryness, coupled with cold weather the latter part of March, was decidedly unfavorable for winter wheat, especially in Kansas and Oklahoma; marked signs of deterioration have appeared in south-central and parts of western Kansas, while the drought in Oklahoma is becoming serious. In the central and eastern portions of the wheat belt a good general warm rain is needed, though the precipitation the latter part of March, especially the heavy snows, was beneficial. But little spring wheat has been seeded, and the recent cold weather has been unfavorable for work in the spring wheat area, with the ground frozen in many sections.